



2020 VOTE!

YOUTH VOTER TOOLKIT

prepared by



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES



Youth Voter Toolkit

Created by the San Antonio Youth Commission

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FAQ About Voting:

Why should I vote?

More people going to the polls can mean better political representation, more funding to our communities, and a greater quality of life for all. Even though the United States has unusually low voting rates among similar countries, voting is an incredibly powerful tool. If we are able to unite as a community to increase voter turnout, we can help make our local, state, and national legislators more receptive to our ideas and needs as a community.

Our education, healthcare, immigration practices, infrastructure, economy, treatment of veterans, etc. are all affected by our vote.



Voting is your constitutional right that has been fought for by countless people throughout our history. It is also an important civil responsibility that can directly impact your life. Voting affects how tax dollars are spent, what the political priorities are, and the quality and type of services your local community is provided. By voting, you are helping your fellow citizens and improving the country you live in.

What is a primary election?

Primary elections allow voters to choose a preferred candidate among a pool for general elections, local elections, or by-elections. Usually, this is done in parties, such as a Democratic or Republican primary. Texas has an open primary system, which means that a registered voter may vote in any party primary regardless of his or her own party preference or membership.

When are elections in Texas?

The most well-known election is the general election, which is the Tuesday after the first Monday of November in all even-numbered years. However, there are several incredibly important elections that take place throughout the rest of the year. The other two significant elections are primary elections, which usually take place in March, and primary runoffs, which usually take place in May. In 2020, these elections' dates were on March 3, July 14 (the election was postponed from its original date by the pandemic), and November 3 (general presidential election). You can find the dates and information on these elections and special elections here, as well as information on potential delays:

<https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/laws/current-elections-information.shtml>

Voting Requirements



How do I know if I'm eligible to vote?

You are eligible to vote if you are a U.S. citizen, legally registered to vote, are at least 18 years old on Election Day, are not a convicted felon, and have not been declared by court exercising probate jurisdiction to be incapacitated without the right to vote.

Further details can be found here: <https://www.bexar.org/1701/Voter-Registration>

What is the minimum age to vote in Texas?

The minimum age to actually vote in Texas is **18 years**. However, you can register to vote at the age of **17 years and 10 months**.

I'm not old enough! What can I do?

If you are 16 and older, you can apply to work as an election clerk with your city. You can find out more information here: <https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/pamphlets/seci.shtml>.

Otherwise, you can accompany someone who can to learn about the process, or study up on issues and candidates so you can be an informed voter when the time comes.

How do I update my registration information?

- Did you move within your county?
 - Notify your Voter Registrar of your new address. You can do this when applying for or changing your Texas driver's license, by correcting your voter registration certificate and returning it to your Voter Registrar, or you can change your address online here: <https://txapps.texas.gov/tolapp/sos/SOSACManager>
- Did you move to another county?
 - You must re-register to vote. This can be done by filling out a new application then mailing it or bringing it in person to the Voter Registrar of your new county.
- Did you change your name?
 - Notify your Voter Registrar of the change. You can do this when applying for or changing your Texas driver's license, by correcting your voter registration certificate and returning it to your Voter Registrar, or, if you're living in the same county, you can change your name online here: <https://txapps.texas.gov/tolapp/sos/SOSACManager>

Visit here for more information: <https://www.votetexas.gov/register-to-vote/did-you-change-something.html>

In addition, you can find your county's Voter Registrar here:
<https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/votregduties.shtml>

Polling Locations

Where can I vote?

You can vote at a designated location for your address, or assigned precinct voting location. You can find more information here:

<https://www.votetexas.gov/voting/where.html>



When and how can I vote in these elections?

Besides in-person voting on the day of the election, early voting is offered for a period before the election, though the dates and locations where it takes place vary. In addition, voting by mail is an option, but in Texas this is only requestable under certain circumstances, such as if you are sick or will be outside your county during Election Day during voting hours. Here are instructions on how to apply for a mail-in ballot:

<https://www.sos.texas.gov/elections/voter/reqabbm.shtml>

What should I bring with me?

A form of acceptable identification, at least bring one of the seven forms of ID:

- Texas Driver License
- Texas Election ID Certificate
- Texas Personal ID Card
- Texas Handgun License
- U.S. Citizenship Certificate with Photo
- U.S. Military ID Card with Photo
- U.S. Passport (Book or Card)



With the exception of a U.S. Citizenship Certificate, if you are 69 or younger, the identification must be current or have been expired for no more than 4 years.

More information can be found here: <https://www.votetexas.gov/register-to-vote/need-id.html>

What times are polls open?

On Election Day, polls are open from **7 am to 7 pm**.
The times for early voting vary by location.



Current Officials

How can I find out who is my state senator, state representative, or U.S. representative?

This is easy to do! Go to <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative> to find your U.S. representative. By entering in your zip code, you can see who your elected officials currently are. To find out who your state senator and state representative are, go to <https://wrm.capitol.texas.gov/home> and enter in your information to see who represents you.

Important Resources:

Presidential Candidates' Standing on Vital Issues

<https://educationvotes.nea.org/presidential-2020/biden-vs-trump/>

How do your Beliefs Align with the Candidates' Beliefs?

<https://www.isidewith.com/>

Detailed Information on Local Candidates in Texas Elections:

<https://ballotpedia.org/Texas>

National Voter Registration Day

<https://nationalvoterregistrationday.org/>

High School Voter Registration in Texas:

<https://texascivilrightsproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/2019-HSVR-Compliance-Report.pdf>

How to Register to Vote

<https://www.votetexas.gov/register/index.html>

<https://www.vote.org/register-to-vote/texas/>

Where to Vote:

<https://www.bexar.org/2229/Voter-Registration-Check-Polling-Location>

